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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
19 May 1963**

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Political Stability in East Africa

1. We view the chances for political stability in East Africa during the next three to five years with very cautious optimism. Much depends on the outcome of the Kenyan elections this month and the nature of the resulting African government. Uganda and Tanganyika are models of stability for Africa, but are dependent on a few able leaders whose loss could have far-reaching consequences.

2. Kenya--the keystone of East Africa--should be relatively stable for the next year, but any prediction beyond that time would be hazardous concerning a country beset by such deep racial and tribal cleavages. The new African government will probably be led by Jomo Kenyatta, once imprisoned as a Mau Mau leader, and will be responsible for all governmental functions except foreign affairs and internal security during the transitional period before independence--expected by early 1964. One stabilizing factor in this period will be the realization by Kenyan leaders that they must present the British with a workable government in order to avoid delaying independence.

3. It appears that in the elections KANU--the less moderate, Pan-African party--will win a working control of the House of Representatives and the right to form a government. The size of its victory will determine whether Kenya's present two-party system will survive and whether the new, extremely complicated constitution will be changed to suit KANU's demands for a more centralized government. The real significance of the election in terms of Kenya's future stability will not be how many, but which, KANU candidates are victorious. If the moderates are successful in eliminating some of the more violent, racist, ex-Mau Mau elements, the now-mellowed Kenyatta's chances of forming a moderate government will be greatly enhanced.

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4. Kenya's deteriorating economic situation--it has a chronic budgetary deficit, unfavorable balance of trade, and serious unemployment--will complicate the new government's task.

5. KANU talks of creating a socialist society, but it appears to be thinking in terms of joint participation by government and private investors rather than outright public ownership. There is a good chance that Kenya, as well as its neighbors, will follow an enlightened economic policy and encourage foreign investment.

6. The long-term outlook for East Africa is for a federation of at least Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika. KANU is expected to continue Kenya's participation in the regional organizations through which currency and common services of these three states are jointly managed. Uganda and Tanganyika have discussed a combined military establishment and joint diplomatic service, and only await the formation of an African government in Kenya before moving further. Some sort of political federation of the three countries appears likely within a few years, and if accomplished could have a stabilizing effect throughout the area.

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